tonne during the financial year 1992-93 as compared to its production during the year 1991-92 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to hoost the production of crude in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Crude oil production is expected to decline in 1992-93 vis-a-vis 1991-92. This is because of a variety of technical and other reasons including rectificatory measures in the Bombay High field to restore the reservoir voidage balance.

(c) ONGC have initiated rectificatory measures in the Bombay High Wells. Moreover, a number of new schemes are being implemented/taken up to augment indigenous production of crude oil.

Price of gas

318. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the whole-sale and retail price of different types of industrial gas in Assam and Gujarat separately as on 31-1-1992 ;

(b) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Gujarat Government for doing away the disparity in the fixation of price ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Prices charged by ONGC/OIL for natural gas supplied by them were as follows :—

1. Assam—Rs. 1000/1000 cu. mts. with a further discount of Rs. 400/1000 cu. mts. on a case to case basis.

2. Gujarat—Rs. 1550/1000 cu. mts. (at landfall point)
Rs. 2400/1000 cu. mts. (ex-HBJ pipeline)

All aspects of the matter were duly considered while fixing the prices.

Oil Selection Board

319. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Oil Selection Boards in the country alongwith their composition and tenure ;

(b) the names of Oil Selection Boards which have no Chairperson ; and

(c) the number of cases of retail outlets of LPG/Petrol/Diesel decided during the absence of the Chairpersons of the Oil Selection Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) At present there is no Oil Selection Board.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Letter of intent of LPG/Petrol Pumps

320. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the state-wise number of letters of intent issued for domestic LPG retail outlets, petrol pumps (retail outlets) and diesel outlets during the last two years and the number of those sanctioned from the Minister's quota, year-wise discretionary powers of the Minister ; and

(b) the number of cases decided in each category of physically Handicapped, Ex-Defence personnel, SC/ST and number of those in Gujarat as on 31-1-92?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Requirement of petrol Diesel and kerosene oil

321. DR. ABRAR AHMED :

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present requirement of petrol, diesel and kerosene in the country;

(b) the extent of requirement met through indigenous supply and through import separately ;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange spent on it ;

(d) what steps Government are taking to curtail the import and minimise the use of such petroleum products ; and

(e) whether Government are conducting any servey to explore new areas in order to increase the production of petroleum products, if so, what are the details of the results achieved during the last 3 years.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached. (*See* below).

(d) Amongst the steps being taken by the Government to curtail the import and minimise the uses of such petroleum products are :

(i) Intensification of activities relating to exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas.

(ii) Setting up of grass root refineries and expansion of existing refineries;

(iii) Attaching high priority to energy conservation measures in all sectors of economy ; and

(iv) Taking various steps for conservation and Demand Management.

(e) Exploration is going on and to supplement the efforts of the national oil companies 72 blocks have also been offered to Indian and Foreign private companies for exploration under the Fourth Round of bidding.

Statement

Year 1991-92

(Fig. in TMT)

Product	Requirement (Estimated)	Import (Estimated)	Indigenous Production (Est.)
Petrol	3655	Nil	3619
Diesel	22642	5144	17244
Kerosene	8425	3305	5268

The extent of foregin exchange required will depend on the final volume of imports and the international prices from time to time.

पेट्रोल पंप/गैस एजेंसियों का आवंटन

822. डा० अबरार अहमद :
चौधरी हरि सिंह :

क्या **पैट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पेट्रोल पंपों और गैस एजेंसियों के आवंटन के लिए चयन बोर्डों के गठन के संबंध में वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है और इन्हें कब तक तथा किस प्रकार किए जाने की संभावना है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों, अल्पसंख्यकों और पिछड़े वर्गों आदि के उत्थान के लिए उन से संबंध रखने वाले व्यक्तियों को पेट्रोल पंप और गैस एजसियों का आवंटन करने के लिए वचनबद्ध है, यदि हां, तो किस हद तक और ये लाभ उन्हें सुनिश्चित कराने के लिए सरकार क्या तरीका अपनाने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) देश में पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान आवंटित किये गये प्रैट्रोल पंपों और गैस एजेंसियों की कुल संख्या कितनी है और इन में से अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों, मुस्लिम समुदाय तथा अन्य पिछड़े समुदायों से संबंध रखने वाले व्यक्तियों को आवंटित पेट्रोल पंपों और गैस एजेंसियों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानन्द) :(क) पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के डीलरों/डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों के चयन